



CARDD
MEPA ROUTING MEMO

To: Mark Bostrom
Through: Autumn Coleman
From: Demi Blythe

Re: Adoption Decision for the Bigfork County Water and Sewer District
Water Storage and Distribution Improvements
Project Sponsor: Bigfork County Water and Sewer District
Name of Project: Water Storage and Distribution Improvements
Agreement No: WRF-XXXXX

Memo:

DNRC can issue an Adoption Notice for the Montana Department of Environmental Quality's Environmental Assessment and FONSI (attached). **SIGNATURE REQUIRED**

___/s/DEB___ MEPA/NEPA Coordinator Review

___^{DS}
MB___

Bureau Chief Review

Division Administrator Signature

_____ Post for ___30___ Days on DNRC's Environmental Docs page.

_____ File

NATURAL RESOURCES AND CONSERVATION



GREG GIANFORTE, GOVERNOR

1539 ELEVENTH AVENUE

STATE OF MONTANA

DIRECTOR'S OFFICE: (406) 444-2074
FAX: (406) 444-2684PO BOX 201601
HELENA, MONTANA 59620-1601

DECISION NOTICE ADOPTION OF EXISTING ENVIRONMENTAL REVIEW

Water Storage and Distribution Improvements
Spring 2021
Bigfork County Water and Sewer District
Bigfork, 48.0634, -114.0834
Flathead County

Existing Environmental Review Document: Montana Department of Environmental Quality Environmental
Assessment and FONSI

Type and Purpose of Action

Historical Information -

The Bigfork County Water and Sewer District was created in 1984, however portions of the system have service since the 1960's. Two new supply wells and a storage tank were constructed in 1993. In 2014, two additional water supply wells were drilled, and a portion of a secondary transmission line constructed.

Problem -

The District requires an additional 750,000 gallons of water storage to meet MDEQ standards. A new water transmission line is needed to connect to the new water tank, provide redundancy in the system, and provide adequate capacity from the existing well site.

Proposed Solution -

The District will construct a new 750,000-gallon tank on a parcel currently owned by the District, including a new access road. The District will also construct approximately 5,000 feet of 16-inch transmission line, including directional drilling across Highway 35, miscellaneous hydrants, and air release valves.

The proposed implementation date is ...

Explanation of the decision(s) that must be made regarding the proposed action (i.e. approve grant or loan and provide funding):

DNRC approved the loan to provide funding for the Bigfork County Water and Sewer District Water Storage and Distribution Improvements Project.

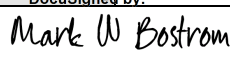
Criteria for Adopting Existing Environmental Review

- ☒ The existing environmental review covers an action paralleling or closely related to the proposed action.
- ☒ The information in the existing environmental review is accurate and clearly presented.
- ☒ The information in the existing environmental review is applicable to the action being considered.
- ☒ All appropriate Agencies were consulted during preparation of the existing environmental review.
- ☒ Alternatives to the proposed action evaluated as part of the existing environmental review effort.
- ☒ The impacts of the proposed action been accurately identified as part of the existing environmental review.
- ☒ The existing environmental review identifies any significant impacts as a result of the proposed action and those identified will they be mitigated below the level of significance.

Adopt

The existing environmental review can be considered sufficient to satisfy DNRC's MEPA review responsibilities. No further analysis needed.

Existing Analysis Prepared By:	Name: Demitra Blythe	Date: 8/4/2021
	Title: CARD Division MEPA/NEPA Coordinator	
	Email: Demitra.Blythe@mt.gov	

Approved By:	Name: Mark Bostrom
	Title: CARD Division Administrator
Signature: 	Date: 9/7/2021

**FINDING OF NO SIGNIFICANT IMPACT
FOR THE BIGFORK COUNTY WATER AND SEWER DISTRICT, MONTANA
WATER SYSTEM IMPROVEMENTS**

TO: ALL INTERESTED PERSONS

Date: August 23, 2021
Action: Funding Drinking Water System Improvements
Location of Project: Bigfork County Water and Sewer District, Flathead County,
Bigfork, Montana
DEQ DWSRF Loan: To be Determined
Total Project Cost: Approximately \$5,719,000

An environmental assessment (EA) has been prepared by the Montana Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ) for proposed funding for improvements to the Bigfork County Water and Sewer District. The proposed improvements include the construction of a new 1,000,000-gallon partially buried pre-stressed concrete storage tank; the installation of approximately 3,088 linear feet (LF) of 16-inch PVC transmission pipe; 364 LF of 12-inch PVC water pipe; 30 LF of 16-inch ductile iron pipe (DIP); 155 LF of 12-inch DIP; 2,705 LF of 15-inch PVC drain piping for the water storage tank; and the installation of approximately 260 LF of 16-inch internal restrained joint drain-pipe. The project will also include necessary valves, hydrants, and appurtenances. The purpose of this project is to make improvements to District's water supply system needed to protect public health.

The affected environment will be an area located on District property approximately 1,250 feet west of Montana Highway 35 and approximately 400 feet northwest of the north end of Windsor Court in Bigfork, MT. The human environment affected will include residents and visitors the Bigfork area. Based on the EA, the project is not expected to have any significant adverse impacts upon terrestrial and aquatic life or habitat, including endangered species, water quality or quantity, air quality, geological features, cultural or historical features, or social quality.

As indicated above, this project will be funded in part with a low interest loan through the Montana Drinking Water State Revolving Fund Program, administered by the Montana Department of Environmental Quality and the Montana Department of Natural Resources and Conservation. The loan will be repaid by a General Obligation Bond.

The DEQ utilized the following references in completing its EA for this project: a Uniform Application Form and Uniform Environmental Checklist for Montana Public Facility Projects; the Bigfork County Water & Sewer District Water System Preliminary Engineering Report (April 2016); Amendment #1 Bigfork County Water and Sewer District Water System Preliminary Engineering Report (August 10, 2021); and the Bigfork County Water and Sewer Improvements Project Basis of Design Report (February, 18, 2021). The Uniform Application Form for Montana Public Facility

Projects was submitted by Lloyd Ross, District President. The remainder of the documents were prepared by Morrison Maierle.

In addition to these references, letters were sent to; Montana Department of Environmental Quality (MDEQ); Montana Department of Fish, Wildlife, and Parks (FWP); Montana Department of Natural Resources & Conservation (DNRC), United States Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS); Montana State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO), and the US Montana Army Corps of Engineers. Response letters that were received are noted in the EA. These references are available for review upon request by contacting:


Denver Fraser, P.E.
Montana DEQ
State Revolving Fund Program
P.O. Box 200901
Helena, MT 59620-0901
Phone (406) 444-5318
Email: dfraser@mt.gov

or

Julie Spencer, District Manager
Bigfork County W&S District
P.O. Box 1108
Bigfork, MT 59911
(406) 837-4566
Email: bfws@montanasky.com

Comments on this finding or on the EA may be submitted to DEQ at the above address. After evaluating substantive comments, DEQ may revise the EA or determine if an EIS is necessary. This finding will stand if no substantive comments are received during the 30-day comment period or if substantive comments are received and evaluated and the environmental impacts are still determined to be non-significant.

Signed,



Mark Smith, P.E., Supervisor
Engineering Bureau

BIGFORK COUNTY WATER AND SEWER DISTRICT - WATER SYSTEM IMPROVEMENTS PROJECT
ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT

I. COVER SHEET

A. PROJECT IDENTIFICATION

Applicant:	Bigfork Water and Sewer District
Address:	P.O. Box 117, Bigfork, MT 59932
DWSRF WRF Project No.	Not yet assigned
DEQ E.Q. No.	21-2605

B. CONTACT PERSON

Name:	Julie Spencer, District Manager Bigfork Water and Sewer District
Address:	108 Harbor Heights Blvd. P.O. Box 1108 Bigfork, MT 59911
Telephone:	(406) 837-4566

C. ABSTRACT

The Bigfork County Water and Sewer District (BCWSD), through a 2016 Water System Preliminary Engineering Report (PER) and Amendment #1 of the PER (August 10, 2021), has investigated the needs of their Public Water Supply (PWS). Both PERs were developed by Morrison Maierle. The PERs examined all components of the system including the water supply wells, the water distribution system, transmission mains, and storage for the District. The document assessed the current condition, performance, and capacity of facilities and establishes a recommended course of action and design basis for water improvements to meet the needs of the BCWSD and the requirements of State and Federal regulations for a 20-year planning period.

The PER notes that the water system does not have adequate storage to meet Montana Department of Environmental Quality (MDEQ) design standards. Adding storage and required transmission piping from water system to a new storage tank is necessary to improve system reliability, pressure, and to improve fire protection to meet current and future demands.

Options for remedying the storage system deficiency were developed and an alternatives evaluation was completed in the 2016 PER. The evaluation was updated in the 2021 PER. The recommended alternatives from the 2016 PER included:

Transmission Main:

- Alternative TM2: 16-inch Transmission Main—Chapman Hill Road to Proposed New Storage Tank

Storage Tank:

- A new 750,000-gallon pre-stressed, partially buried storage tank.

Further analysis and changes noted in the updated 2021 Amendment #1 PER determined that a 1.0 million-gallon (MG) storage tank was necessary to adequately meet the tank needs for the 20-year design period from 2020 to 2040. The 2021 PER amendment also provides clarification to the 2016 PER in determining that the purpose of the proposed storage tank is to supply sufficient operational storage to meet existing water demands for the BCWSD.

For estimating capital costs for the alternatives, cost data was derived from actual suppliers of materials and equipment whenever possible. In addition, cost data was obtained from recently bid projects with similar design aspects. Project capital costs not only include the estimated costs for labor and materials to construct the improvements, but also include allowances for contractor mobilization, bonding, and contingencies. The costs also include a 20 percent allowance for technical services (i.e., engineering, construction administration, grant administration, etc.) and a 10 percent contingency.

Based on the analysis described above, construction of a 1.0 MG pre-stressed concrete tank was the recommended alternative. Additionally, installation of a 16-inch transmission main from Chapman Hill Road to the proposed location of the new storage tank was also recommended. There is also piping being installed for overflow and/or drain water from the storage tank. The proposed total cost is estimated to be \$5,719,000.

Under Montana law (75-6-112, MCA), no person, including a municipality or county, may construct, extend, or use a public water system until the DEQ has reviewed and approved the plans and specifications for the project.

D. COMMENT PERIOD

Thirty (30) calendar days.

II. PURPOSE AND NEED FOR ACTION

Water is presently supplied to the BCWSD's system by four wells drilled in 1992, 1993, and 2014 known as Ramsfield Wells #1, #2, #3, and #4 respectively. Wells #3 and #4 were both drilled in 2014; however, a pump was not installed in Well #4 until 2019). These wells are located about 3 miles north of the Bigfork on a 1.5-acre parcel owned by the District.

The BCWSD has two pressure zones called the Upper Pressure Zone (UPZ) and the Lower Pressure Zone (LPZ). The BCWSD's 2016 PER and 2021 PER amendment identified the need to add storage within the UPZ. The 2021 PER noted that an additional 200,000-gallons of storage was needed in the UPZ to meet the current (2020) average day demand of 549,000 gallons per day, as required by the Montana Department of Environmental Quality (MDEQ) design circular DEQ-1 (Section 7.0.1). This standard requires tanks to provide storage equal to the average day demand. Presently, the 350,000-gallon Windsor Tank is the only storage tank that is providing pressure and capacity to the UPZ. The 2021 PER notes that additional storage is available in the LPZ; however, the BCWSD does not have the ability to feed water back to the UPZ from the LPZ.

Additional storage capacity in the UPZ will ensure the BCWSD can reliably provide

adequate pressure and capacity during peak water demand period to ensure public health and safety. The installation of transmission pipe is also required as part of the project to connect the proposed storage tank to the BCWSD's distribution system.

STORAGE

Health and safety of the public is by far the largest concern for any community water system. The Bigfork Water and Sewer District is limited in storage volume in the UPZ. This deficiency could potentially impact the health and safety of the public. The proposed drinking water storage tank, necessary transmission piping, and appurtenances are necessary to address deficiencies in this PWS.

III. ALTERNATIVES INCLUDING THE PROPOSED ACTION AND COSTS

As noted above, the 2016 Water System PER and Amendment #1 of the PER (2021) examined all components of the system including the water supply wells, distribution system, transmission mains, and storage for the BCWSD. This EA will only focus on the storage and necessary transmission main applicable for this proposed project. The full PER documents can be obtained by contacting MDEQ or Morrison Maierle.

Alternatives analyzed in the 2016 PER include the "no action" option or adding storage to meet current MDEQ requirements and water system needs. A "no action" alternative was also included for the transmission main that would be required to link the proposed new storage tank with the existing District distribution system.

The "no action" alternatives were not considered beyond the initial screening stage. These alternatives will not remedy the problems currently being experienced due to the lack of water storage in the UPZ. Additionally, water storage was considered a more pressing need for the community than other components considered in the 2016 PER.

The 2016 PER examined the capital costs and net present worth costs of the viable alternatives to correct the lack of water storage. Alternatives considered for the District PWS included:

Storage Tank Alternatives

A new 750,000-gallon storage tank is needed in order to supply the required fire flow and to comply with Montana Department of Environmental Quality minimum capacity requirements. The District owns a 1.5-acre parcel of land located about 1,000 feet north of the Windsor tank at about the same elevation as the Windsor tank site. Due to specific site requirements and slopes, a concrete tank was determined to be necessary.

The alternatives considered for a new storage tank are:

- Alternative STOR1: No Action
- Alternative STOR2: 750,000 Gallon Prestressed Tank, Partially Buried
- Alternative STOR3: 750,000 Gallon Prestressed Tank, Roof Buried
- Alternative STOR4: 750,000 Gallon Cast-In-Place Tank, Partially Buried
- Alternative STOR5: 750,000 Gallon Cast-In-Place Tank, Roof Buried

Transmission Main Alternatives:

- Alternative TM1: No action

- Alternative TM2: 16-inch Transmission Main – Chapman Hill Road to New Storage Tank

As stated previously, the updated 2021 PER Amendment #1 determined that a 1.0 MG storage tank was necessary to adequately meet the tank needs for the 20-year design period from 2020 to 2040; therefore, a 1.0 MG partially buried pre-stressed concrete tank is proposed. A Request for Proposals for an AWWA D110 Type III pre-stressed concrete tank was developed by Morrison Maierle to determine a supplier for the preferred alternative.

The estimated total costs of the project are \$5,719,000. This cost was updated in the 2020 PER Amendment #1 and is an increase from the \$5,420,000 figure noted in the 2019 Uniform Application Form for Montana Public Facility Projects. The individual project component breakdown can be found in 2020 PER Amendment #1 (available on request).

The Uniform Application anticipated receiving \$5,330,000 from a Drinking Water State Revolving Fund Loan. This amount will need to be increased to account for the updated costs. The application indicated \$90,000 would be provided by the BCWSD.

The Uniform Application stated the BCWSD would borrow \$5,330,000 of the total project cost resulting in combined water and sewer rates of \$126.10, or 123 percent of the affordable target rate of \$102.53 (2015 American Community Survey). The document noted the residential rate is increasing from \$109.60 to \$126.10.

IV. AFFECTED ENVIRONMENT

A. Description of the Project Planning Area

1. Bigfork is an unincorporated community on the northeastern shore of Flathead Lake at the mouth of the Swan River. Water facilities are owned and maintained by the BCWSD. As is the case with many western Montana communities, growth in the area has increased over the past several years. Bigfork is unique in that it has a substantial tourist and seasonal population that contribute to the water system demand, in addition to the contribution from year-round residents.

The new partially buried pre-stressed concrete storage tank will be constructed in the spring or summer of 2022 on BCWSD property situated west of Montana Highway 35 and just northwest of the north end of Windsor Court. The transmission piping and overflow piping follows an existing private drive south of the proposed tank site with boring required beneath Highway 35.

2. Design criteria for this project are addressed in MDEQ Circular 1 and AWWA D110. Storage volume must meet the average day demand plus fire flow.

The 2021 PER amendment noted that an additional 200,000-gallons of storage was needed in the UPZ to meet the current (2020) average day demand of 549,000 gallons per day, as required by the MDEQ design circular DEQ-1 (Section 7.0.1). The 1.0 MG tank design covers a 20-year design period from 2020 to 2040.

3. Bigfork is located in Western Central Montana on the northeast corner of Flathead Lake and east of the Flathead River. Land use within the Bigfork area consists

primarily of residential housing, various dwellings, and commercial developments geared toward the tourist industry. These include hotels, rental cabins, and restaurants. Land use outside Bigfork is primarily agricultural.

The proposed system improvements will be constructed within the BCWSD's boundaries. The construction work will be located within public rights of ways, private property easements, and BCWSD owned land. The proposed storage tank itself will be constructed on District owned land.

Open trenching will temporarily disturb the affected areas and will be completed with surface restoration such as pavement and gravel replacement or revegetation. Excavation and tank construction will temporarily disturb the construction area, however, affected areas will be properly restored.

4. Flathead County and the BCWSD have experienced large population growth. Since 2000, the BCWSD has grown at a faster rate than Flathead County. The source of this growth has been a combination of the rapid residential and seasonal development in the area and District boundary expansion.

The 2016 PER noted that recent historical customer/population growth combined with current District commitments to additional lots within the District suggests that strong growth will continue for the near-term. Projecting a high rate of growth for a 20-year planning period, however, also has significant planning consequences should the growth not develop as rapidly as estimated. These issues are discussed in greater detail in the 2016 PER and the 2021 amendment to the PER.

Based on the Flathead County Planning and Zoning Bigfork Neighborhood Plan, a yearly growth rate of 3.0 percent was selected to project the year-round residential population for the District for a 20-year period ending in 2035 (2016 PER). This data includes residential population, other non-residential population, and the summer tourist population. A 2.0 percent growth rate was selected for the increase in summer tourists (2016 PER).

The 2021 PER Amendment #1 updated the growth information described above based on the latest information available in the area. The population projection in the original PER used a 3.0% growth rate per year and was projected out to 2035. The population projection was updated with 3.5% growth rate per year and projected out to 2040 to resize the additional storage required for the water system. A 3.5% growth rate was selected due to the high potential for development the District has seen since the 2016 PER was written. Table 1 below presents the future population growth and the required average day demand for the future growth. Table 1 also summarizes projected water demands and the required storage tank sizing to meet demand.

TABLE 1
BIGFORK WATER AND SEWER DISTRICT
PROJECTED WATER DEMANDS

YEAR	Average Service Population	Per Capita Water (GPCD)	Average Water Usage (MGD)	Water Loss (MGD)	Average Day Demand (MGD)	Required Tank Size (GAL)
2020	3,605	135	0.487	0.062	0.549	498,684
2025	4,282	135	0.578	0.062	0.640	590,028
2030	5,085	135	0.687	0.062	0.749	698,516
2035	6,040	135	0.815	0.062	0.877	827,365
2040	7,173	135	0.968	0.062	1.030	980,398

D. MAPS

Figure 1 shows the proposed site for the transmission main and storage tank area. This figure was prepared as part of a contaminant source review by Carolyn DeMartino with MDEQ. Figure 2 shows an aerial photo of Bigfork on the north side of Flathead Lake

Figure 1. Big Fork Water & Sewer District Proposed Water Storage Tank and Transmission Main
Potential Contaminant Source Review



Scale
1,000 500 0 1,000 Feet



Legend

- | | |
|-------------------------|--------------------------------|
| Water Storage Tank | Water Transmission Main Buffer |
| Water Transmission Main | Property Parcels |
| Water Valve | City-County Road |
| Fire Hydrant | MT Highway 35 |

Mapping by Carolyn DeMartino, DEQ Water Quality Division, February 2020

Figure 1. Bigfork Montana Potential Contaminant Source Review Map

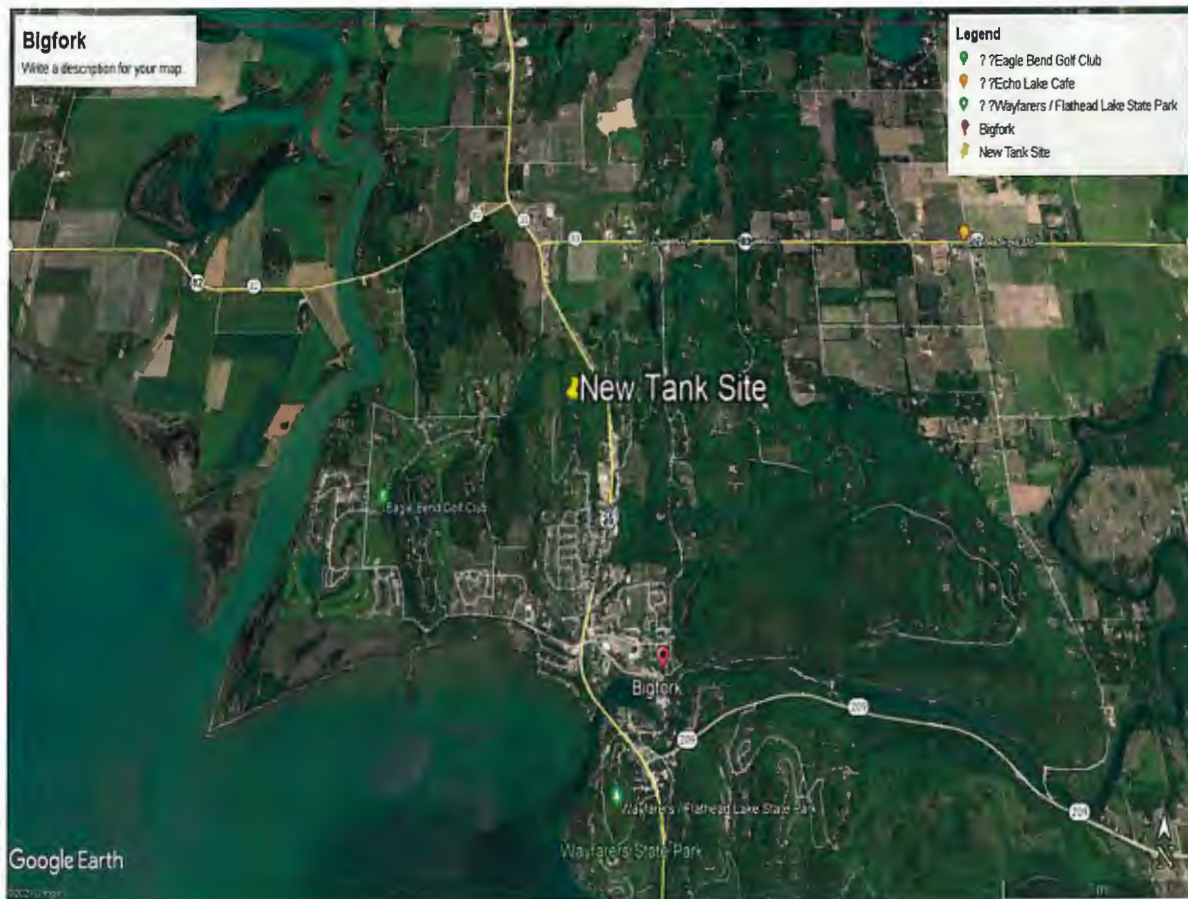


Figure 2. Bigfork Montana New Tank Site

V. DIRECT AND INDIRECT ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACTS OF PROPOSED PROJECT

No adverse impacts to the environment are anticipated by implementation of the proposed water system improvements. All of the storage tank, transmission main piping, and appurtenances will be located within existing BCWSD owned property, easements, and rights-of-way.

A. DIRECT ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACTS

Soils Suitability, topographic and Geologic Constraints

Soils in the area are suitable for the construction of a partially buried concrete storage tank and required transmission main. Bigfork lies in a river valley on lacustrine plain on the northeast shore of Flathead Lake and between the Flathead and Swan Rivers. A small part of town is located north of the river. The soils in the immediate project area are variable from gravelly loam to loamy fine sand. The elevation varies from 2,900 to 3,300 feet above mean sea level.

Land Use

The land use in the study area is primarily residential, recreational, agricultural, and tourism related commercial development. No adverse effects to any of these uses is expected.

Floodplains and Wetlands

No adverse impacts to the floodplain are expected. The Bigfork Water and Sewer District's boundaries encompass the Swan River's 100-year flood plain in the area; however, this project is well away from that floodplain and will have no significant adverse impact on the floodplain.

Historical/Cultural Resources

The Montana State Historic Preservation Office was contacted and indicated the following. "As long as there will be no disturbance or alteration to structures over fifty years of age we feel that there is a low likelihood cultural properties will be impacted. We, therefore, feel that a recommendation for a cultural resource inventory is unwarranted at this time. However, should structures need to be altered or if cultural materials be inadvertently discovered during this project, we would ask that our office be contacted and site investigated." There are no known structures on site.

Biological Resources and Vegetation

The Fish Wildlife Service stated was contacted and did not have any comments regarding the improvements proposed. Vegetation will be re-seeded following construction activities.

Surface Water and Groundwater

The proposed water system project will have no impacts on surface water/water quality, quantity, or distribution. The depth of Bigfork's existing four wells are approximately 300 feet. If groundwater is present during construction, dewatering of trenches may require a construction dewatering permit. Also, if groundwater is encountered, construction methods will be adjusted. No adverse impacts to groundwater are expected.

The Flathead River is two miles west of Bigfork. The Swan River flows into town from the east and the community is adjacent to the northeast shore of Flathead Lake.

Socio-Economic/Environmental Justice and Public Health

This project will benefit all community members regardless of socio-economic status. The population served by this water system is not considered to be disadvantaged either by minority or income status.

Air Quality

Short-term negative impacts on the air quality will occur from heavy equipment, dust, and exhaust fumes during project construction. Proper construction practices and dust abatement measures will be implemented during construction to control dust, thus minimizing this problem.

Energy

During construction of the proposed project, additional energy will be consumed, resulting in a direct short-term increased demand on this resource. No increased long-term energy consumption is anticipated.

Noise

Short-term impacts from increased noise levels will occur during construction of the proposed project improvements. Construction activities are anticipated to last less than 90 days and will occur only during daylight hours. Post-construction, no noise level impacts are expected.

B. UNAVOIDABLE ADVERSE IMPACTS

Short-term construction related impacts, such as noise, dust, and traffic disruption, will occur but should be minimized through proper construction management. Energy consumption during construction cannot be avoided.

C. CUMULATIVE IMPACTS

This project addresses the existing water utility needs and will have no subsequent negative cumulative effects on resources, ecosystems, or human communities. The projected growth of Bigfork over the next 20 years is not expected to cause cumulative effects beyond the capacity of the resources. Further environmental analysis would be required for any discussion of cumulative impacts beyond this scope and time frame.

VI. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

The BCWSD was involved in the PER process and discussed the direction and progress of the PERs during District meetings. The public was also kept informed with public meetings, informational flyers, and news media articles.

Public Meeting Dates: 2/9/2016, Meeting 1; 4/12/2016, Meeting 2; and 1/14/2020, Town Hall meeting regarding Bond Election (Citizens for a Better Bigfork). The flyer for the Bond Election is available on request.

Informational Flyers: 12/30/2019, flyer posted around town and various public places including bank, grocery store, bars, restaurants, etc. Also available at Bigfork County Water and Sewer District office.

New Media Articles: 01/15/2020, Daily Interlake; 02/22/2020, Flathead Beacon; and 03/30/2020, Flathead Beacon.

VII. AGENCY ACTION, APPLICABLE REGULATIONS, AND PERMITTING AUTHORITIES

All water system improvements will be designed to meet Montana DEQ requirements. Proper State regulatory review and approval of the project plans and specifications will be obtained. All applicable local, federal, and state permits will be acquired including, but not limited to, a stormwater discharge permit and a construction-dewatering permit if needed.

All appropriate easements and access will be addressed with regards to the water system infrastructure. If required, land acquisition or long-term agreements will be established for the land requirements associated with the new water storage tank and transmission piping.

VIII. REFERENCE DOCUMENTS

The following documents were utilized in the environmental review of this project and are considered to be part of the project file:

- A. Bigfork County Water & Sewer District Water System Preliminary Engineering Report, April 2016, prepared by Morrison Maierle.
- B. Amendment #1 Bigfork County Water and Sewer District Water System Preliminary Engineering Report (April 2016 Version), August 10, 2021, prepared by Morrison Maierle.
- C. Bigfork County Water and Sewer 2021 Water System Improvements Project Basis of Design Report, February 18, 2021, prepared by Morrison Maierle.
- D. Bigfork County Water and Sewer District – Uniform Application Form for Montana Public Facility Projects, August 2, 2019, Prepared by the Bigfork County Water and Sewer District, Montana—Lloyd Ross, District President.
- E. Uniform Environmental Checklist for Montana Public Facility Projects, April 29, 2016, prepared by Jeffrey Cicon, P.E., Morrison Maierle.

IX. AGENCIES CONSULTED

Several federal and state government agencies were sent letters on March 17, 2016, requesting

a review of the proposed water system improvements project. The agencies that provided recent comments include the following:

- A. U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service reviewed the project and returned the letter with no comment.
- B. Department of the Army Corps of Engineers reviewed the project and stated, "Projects are evaluated on a case-by-case basis to determine the potential benefits and detriments that may occur as a result of the proposal. In all cases an applicant must avoid and minimize impacts to aquatic resources to the extent practicable." They note that a permit would be required if any fill material was going to be placed into waters of the U.S. They also describe waters of the U.S. The full letter can be provided upon request.
- C. Montana Historical Society's Historic Preservation Office reviewed the project and provided a comment email September 24, 2019. The letter states, "As long as there will be no disturbance or alteration to structures over fifty years of age we feel that there is a low likelihood cultural properties will be impacted. We, therefore, feel that a recommendation for a cultural resource inventory is unwarranted at this time."
- D. Montana Department of Fish, Wildlife & Parks reviewed the project and returned the letter with no comments.
- E. Montana Department of Environmental Quality reviewed the project and provided a comment letter on March 25, 2016. This letter describes permitting requirements for construction of new facilities and includes a fact sheet for water quality permits for construction related activities. The full letter can be provided upon request.
- F. Montana Department of Natural Resources and Conservation reviewed the project and did not have any comment, having reviewed the project for compliance with water rights and floodplain requirements.
- G. USDA Natural Resource Conservation Service reviewed the project and returned the letter without comments; however, they did attach a seeding/planting reclamation mix for reseeding disturbed areas.

X. RECOMMENDATION FOR FUTURE ENVIRONMENTAL ANALYSIS

☐ EIS

☐ More Detailed EA

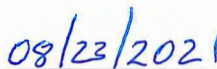
☒ No Further Analysis

Rationale for Recommendation: Through this EA, The Montana DEQ has verified that none of the adverse impacts of the Bigfork County Water and Sewer District Improvements Project are significant. Therefore, an environmental impact statement is not required. Based on this EA, a Finding of No Significant Impact (FONSI) will be issued and legally advertised in the local newspaper and distributed to a list of interested government agencies. Comments regarding the project will be received for 30 days before final approval of the EA is granted. This environmental review was conducted in accordance with the Administrative Rules of Montana (ARM) 17.4.607 thru 17.4.610.

EA Prepared By:



Denver Fraser, P.E.

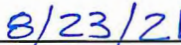


Date

EA Reviewed By:



Mark Smith, P.E.



Date